WRL News

ISSN: 0042-9791

No. 238 | The War Resisters League | September-October 1983

Women Confront Militarism at Seneca Army Depot

By Susan Pines

Leading up to the large action and civil disobedience called for on August 1 at the Seneca Army Depot in upstate New York, relations between the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice and the surrounding community could probably best be classified as "cool." Since the Encampment opened on the July 4 weekend, tensions had been fueled by reports of lesbianism, communism, nudity, witchcraft, the failure of the Encampment to fly an American flag, and, of course, the threat felt by many local people, who depend on the Army base for jobs.

But on Saturday, July 30, tensions mounted to open conflict. On that day, about 150 women started off on a 15-mile walk from Seneca Falls, NY (site of the first women's rights convention) to the Encampment. They were met in the town of Waterloo (whose major claim to fame is that it is the birthplace of Memorial Day) by about 250 angry townspeople, who blocked the route and prevented the walk from moving forward.

Local police arrived, asked the women to disperse and offered to reroute the walk. But 50 of the walkers, insisting that they had a permit and a legal right to demonstrate, sat down and refused to leave. The police, unable to disperse the crowd, ended up arresting the women on charges of disorderly conduct. Two other people were arrested that day, one, a man with a 22-calibre shotgun and the other a local woman who was outraged by what was happening and sat down in sympathy with the walkers.

Back at the Encampment, the evening and the next day were spent trying to sort through the day's events. Rumors were flying: the VFW was meeting on Sunday and was going to march on the Encampment; the march on August 1 was going to be blockaded by counter-demonstrators; the house (which served as the office) was going to be burned down. A call went out for extra women on security. Women who had been vigiling at the jail where the women arrested in Waterloo were being held returned, saying that they left to avoid a confrontation with local people who had also gathered at the jail that evening.

And women kept arriving at the Encampment. By Sunday evening the population swelled to over 1,000, with more women being housed at a nearby state park.

Saturday evening and Sunday turned out to be relatively calm. Sunday was spent in last-minute preparations for Monday's action. Susan B. Anthony's granddaughter spoke at a "Celebration of Feminist Reconnection," held that afternoon, workshops were held, and spirits lifted.

On Monday morning, over 2,000 women

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The War Resisters League/Southeast sponsored a Walk from Durham, NC to the Women's Encampment. They left Durham in early June and arrived at the Encampment in time for the July 4th opening.

The walk from Seneca Falls to Women's Encampment. *Photo by Dorothy Marder.*

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gathered at Sampson State Park to begin the march to the Army Depot. And what a beautiful march it was! Banners, puppets, props, colorful signs, and high spirits were all gathered together. But the two-mile walk took about four hours, as local police kept stopping the march, trying to wait for the State police to arrive. Two hundred counter-demonstrators had gathered at the same gate to the base where the civil disobedience was to happen.

As the march neared the entrance to the Depot, women moved forward and decorated the fences. Two-hundred and fifty women were arrested, attempting to gain access to the Depot by climbing over the fences. The counter-demonstrators remained to the side, and no conflict developed between them and the women.

Over the course of the weekend, and in its aftermath, many women asked some very hard questions: Were the goals of the demonstration diverted because of the local controversy, much of which seemed to center around the question of lifestyle? Could more have been done to try to avoid this conflict?

But, the effect was, the weekend was to break a lot of the tension. The behavior of some local people helped bring out support from others. Dialogue developed between women from the Encampment and local people that hadn't happened all summer. The media coverage was phenomenal. Not only was there coverage all around the country, but in the local upstate NY area, there were pages and pages of stories, and editorials, and debate. Questions about nuclear weapons and the deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles (the Seneca Army Depot is the storage facility for the neutron bomb and the transshipment point for Pershing II missiles) were being openly discussed. Even New York's governor, Mario Cuomo got into the act, calling for an investigation into the issue of a community's right to know what is stored at the Seneca Army Depot and at other government bases.

The editorial in the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* probably summed things up well: "Some continuing form of nonviolent confrontation is probably inevitable, for most great debates need a cutting edge to focus the issues... The irony in so much of what has been happening in Seneca County is that the forces arrayed against each other, the protesters and the residents, want much the same thing. They want an enduring America and they want an enduring world... but they keep getting distracted by lifestyles. Some residents have been understandingly offended by reports of some nudity, and yet the real concern ought to be with the nakedness of a world in which the nuclear arms race has left no place to hide."

Oh, the women arrested in Waterloo were held until Wednesday, August 3. At their arraignment, all charges were dismissed. Most of the women arrested at the Depot on Monday were issued "ban and bar" letters. The letter informs first offenders that any further action against the Depot would result in arrest. All women who received "ban and bars" were released by midnight that evening. About 15 women who were second time offenders were taken to federal court in Rochester, NY and arraigned the next day. No date was set for their return.

The Women's Encampment "officially" closed on Labor Day weekend. But the house is being winterized and some women will be staying on to continue raising the issues, maybe in a more quiet way, that were so dramatically raised this summer.

And in October, the Seneca October Actions Coalition will be sponsoring a rally on October 22 and a nonviolent blockade on October 24 at the Seneca Army Depot. Both events are "mixed" (men and women) and are being called in solidarity with local and regional actions being held that weekend all over the United States and Europe to protest the deployment of cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe later this year.

Nominations Solicited for Executive and National Committees

WRL members may nominate candidates for the Executive and National Committees.

There will be 5 openings for the Executive Committee and 6 for the National Committee. Only persons in the New York City area should be nominated for the EC since they must be able to attend monthly meetings in this area. Members outside the New York City area may be nominated for the NC which meets twice a year. The person you nominate for the NC should come from your own area: West, Midwest, South or East.

Though any WRL member may submit a nomination, nominations by less than five members are subject to the approval of the National Committee as a prerequisite on the ballot. Please submit nominations to the National Office by the November 11 deadline.

WRL Statement of Purpose

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all causes of war.

I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip ____

Send to: **War Resisters League**
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012

WRL NEWS

Published by the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012. 212-228-0450

WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 18 countries.

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American Peace Activists Vigil In Nicaragua

By Lynne Coffin & Dannia Southerland

On July 3, 1983, over 150 people representing peace and religious groups from 31 states and Puerto Rico, travelled to Nicaragua in an "Action for Peace in Nicaragua." Dannia Southerland from the WRL Southeast Regional Office and Lynne Coffin, a member of the Executive Committee represented the War Resisters League, in what was, to date, the largest delegation from the United States to travel to Nicaragua.

The delegation was originally conceived by the Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America (CITCA) and was organized in coalition with other groups, including substantial input and effort from the Southeast Regional office of the WRL. The central theme of the mission was to use the classic tactics of witness and vigil to bring attention to the violence being perpetrated in Nicaragua by the actions of the United States government.

We arrived in Managua, Nicaragua in the afternoon and were transported to a study center, which would become our "home" base during our stay. As we travelled from the airport to the center, one couldn't help but be struck, simultaneously, by the beauty of the country and the extent of the poverty.

From the evening of our arrival through the morning of our departure on July 8, there was a continuous flow of orientation sessions, meetings, travel, and most important, two demonstrations. One demonstration occurred in the town of Jalapa on the Nicaraguan border and one in front of the American embassy in Managua.

Our group met with representatives of human rights groups, women's groups, literary and health officials, opposition spokespersons, including the editor of *La Prensa* and the "official" Roman Catholic Church and government officials, among others. We travelled to meetings in local barrios and visited local churches. Throughout our visit we were permitted to speak with anyone we wanted, tour at will (within the limitations of transportation problems) and experience Nicaragua in as many different situations as is possible to cram into a six day tour. Nicaragua officials continuously told us, "You must see for yourselves and then return home and tell the American people the truth about Nicaragua."

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of our experience in Nicaragua was the willingness of government representatives with whom we met to respond to our questions. As citizens of the United States it was a refreshing experience to hear government officials admit that "mistakes had been made" in the application of certain policies. Not once did we receive the standard response of the American government that "security prevents us from answering that question" even though this is a government threatened with war and dealing with citizens of the very country that threatens their survival.

On July 6, we travelled by bus to the border town of Jalapa to hold a vigil for peace near the Honduran border. The stories of kidnapping, rape, murder and destruction shared with us by the members of the Jalapa community moved and outraged us. This confirmation of the consequences of the role of our government in the "covert" operations in Nicaragua moved us all to renew our efforts to bring this conduct to an end, and to work with renewed dedication to end all forms of U.S. aggression against Nicaragua and to support Nicaragua's right to self-determination.

Dannia Southerland at candlelight vigil in front of the American Embassy in Nicaragua. Photo by Lynne Coffin.

Joined by people from the community, we joined hands to form a human chain across the foothills. The silent vigil and witness of North Americans and Nicaraguans in this region racked by armed conflict was a moving experience for all of us and we all felt that it was an appropriate response to the administration's immoral policies and its utter disregard for the wishes of the American people.

Upon our return to Managua from Jalapa we met with Ambassador Quainton, the Reagan administration's representative to Nicaragua. Even Ambassador Quainton agreed that if elections were held tomorrow in Nicaragua that the Sandinista government would be overwhelmingly elected. He also agreed that the present government has made enormous improvements in the daily lives of Nicaraguans, especially in the areas of literacy and health care. When questioned by members of our group, the Ambassador was unable to provide any evidence that the Nicaraguan government was providing the revolutionary forces in El Salvador with arms. For the first and last time during our stay in Nicaragua, we were told in response to our questions that "security reasons" prevented a response. When the Reverend William Sloane Coffin, who was moderating the session, questioned Ambassador Quainton about individual moral responsibility, the Ambassador was unable to respond.

On our last evening in Nicaragua, the entire delegation, joined by other North Americans present in Managua, held a candlelight vigil in front of the United States Embassy. Before the locked gates of the Embassy compound, holding candles, we again expressed our witness against United States involvement in Nicaragua. We were informed that this was the largest demonstration that had ever taken place at the Embassy.

You do not have to believe that the Nicaraguan government is correct in all its present policies to believe that the United States government policies are totally wrong. The history of U.S. government policy in all of Latin America is one of concern for economic and political domination over the human rights of the people of the region.

- In 1954, a U.S. backed coup overthrew the democratic government of Guatemala, beginning a reign of terror that continues to this day.
- In 1964, a U.S. backed coup overthrew the government of Brazil and replaced it with a military dictatorship.

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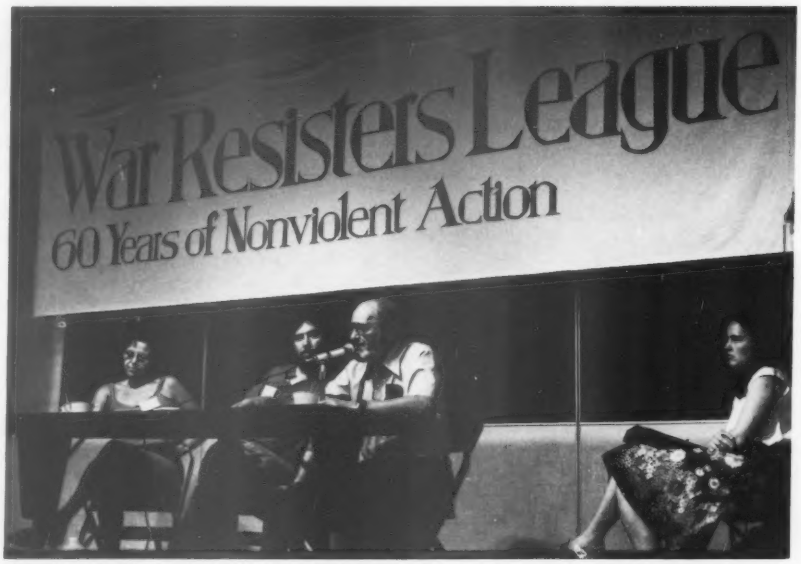
The WRL National Conference

By Ed Hedemann

"I'm in favor of cruise missiles and anything we can use to stop the greatest evil! I detest draft dodgers, communists, homosexuals, and anything else that is against the United States of America!" shouted a 35-year-old high school teacher at the end of the opening plenary session of the War Resisters League 60th Anniversary National Conference. This proclamation was made after everyone else in the auditorium had introduced themselves with brief remarks. The teacher and a friend, both local residents attracted by pre-Conference publicity, stood briefly in the back of the auditorium, expecting a deluge of reaction. Getting none, the plenary dissolved into the scheduled showing of the Buster Keaton film, "The General." The film, though humorous and quaintly charming, was puzzling to those of us who brought the film because we kept waiting in vain for the anticipated anti-war punch line to reveal itself. Oh well, next evening's film "The War Game" (the 1966 BBC futuristic documentary of nuclear war, *not* the computer game "War Games" currently showing) would assault our senses with a clear anti-war theme, decidedly not humorous or charming.



Panel on 1984 elections with Norma Becker, Bill Douglas, Dave Dellinger, and Linnea Capps, who moderated. *Photo by Ed Hedemann.*

Two hundred war resisters came from 26 states to Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, from July 14-17, for the biennial conference. Those in attendance included many who were brand new to WRL, as well as Vietnam war resisters, Korean war resisters, World War II resisters, and though no one who resisted World War I was present (as had been at our 50th anniversary conference), we were honored to have Abe and Ida Kaufman. Abe was WRL's first executive secretary in 1929.

Though the weather was hot and humid (setting some temperature records for the area), relief was found in evening parties, an olympic-sized swimming pool, video games*, or giving in to the heat in the traditional socialist-anarchist softball game. I'm sorry I don't have the box score of the game, however it ended in a tie after a disputed play at first base. The anarchists, in a noncompetitive and egalitarian spirit agreed to a tied game even though they led at that point and had played one less inning than the socialists.

Part of the WRL track team featuring Sierra, Linda Darga, Vic Schumacher, and Murray Rosenblith. *Photo by Ed Hedemann.*

Structurally, the Conference featured 5 sets of workshops sandwiched in between 5 plenaries. By far the most popular plenary was the Saturday evening concert with Charlie King. Two other plenaries were panel discussions. Beverly Woodward, David Hawk, and WRL EC member Lynne Coffin spoke Friday night on the Conference theme, "Thinking globally, acting locally." The next morning David Dellinger, Norma Becker, and Bill Douglas were part of a more controversial panel discussion, "The 1984 elections: the movement response."

The 50 some odd workshops included the always popular nonviolence, anarchism, socialism, feminism, war tax resistance, among others. But there were a few which were very popular as evidenced by their attendance and lively discussion: the role of

**For those concerned about the moral turpitude of pacifists playing war games, we can make available a list of self-styled pacifists who were spotted playing these games during the Conference.*

women-only events, the role of civil disobedience, liberation struggles, Euromissiles, Central America, Soviet threat, draft/counter-recruitment, and role of property destruction in the nonviolence movement. The number of workshops created the usual problems of having to choose among several popular ones scheduled simultaneously, and not having enough time for a fuller discussion. The latter problem was particularly true for the "women-only" and "civil disobedience" workshops, which have both called for special weekends to be set up in the future in order to discuss those issues.

Each of the first workshop periods had introductory workshops, skills workshops, and general issue workshops. The fifth and final period featured ten strategy-oriented workshops, which presented reports and recommendations at the closing plenary of the Conference.

The closing plenary of the Conference. *Photo by Ed Hedemann.*

The National Committee

Sunday afternoon, as the National Committee meeting was beginning and all but a quarter of the Conference attendees drifted away, the atmosphere began to change dramatically. At first, there were only two or three of them. Then by Monday morning they began pouring in! Everywhere you looked, there were twirling guns, flags, and batons! They came in uniforms—600 of them...cheerleaders from all over the country had invaded Lafayette College! We had been warned, but many of us regretted having missed Beverly Woodward's workshop a couple days earlier on nonviolent civilian defense to invasion. However, we survived.

The National Committee meeting, which ran from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday afternoon, took recommendations from the Conference strategy sessions, project proposals presented by NC members, and reports from WRL local groups, regional offices, and national office hammered out program and policies for the next several months.

Among the saddest and heaviest items discussed was the folding of *WIN* magazine after 18 years of publication. Dropping circulation, rising expenses, and rapid staff turnover just proved too much. The last issue will be October 1983. WRL set up a publications committee to explore the possibility of a new publication, which may involve changes in *WRL News* (suggestions on format, content, and financing are welcomed).

Highest program priority was given to draft and counter-recruitment work. WRL has just produced a brand new "Draft Resistance Packet" for $3. This fall a packet on high school organizing will be produced. WRL will also work to prepare for the onset of the draft.

WRL is, and will continue to be, involved in the November 12 Coalition demonstration on Central America in Washington, DC. A special mailing on Central America will be sent to the WRL Key List. The possibility of sending a small WRL delegation to Central America will be explored. An organizers packet on Central America will be produced this fall.

The Green Party invited WRL to send five people to the September 1-3 nonviolent blockade at a Pershing II site in West Germany. The five selected are Mandy Carter (WRL/Southeast), Bob Henschen (Houston), Susan Smith (WRL/West), Michael Mongeau (NC member from Philadelphia), and Ed Hedemann.

Among the other major decisions made by the NC was to set up a women-only retreat this fall to help plan for a mixed conference on "the role of feminism in the movement" next year. The 1985 Peace Calendar will feature the text of Chief Seattle's statement. The NC authorized the national office to aid in the organizing of the October 24 civil disobedience demonstration at the Seneca (NY) Army Depot, as well as publicize other events around the country.

Though the Conference generated considerable local publicity in this conservative part of Pennsylvania with one or more

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WRL literature table with Susan Davidoff, Karl Bissinger, and Grace Hane Hedemann. Photo by Ed Hedemann.

Americans Demonstrate in Nicaragua

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- In 1965, U.S. troops invaded the Dominican Republic.
- In 1973, a U.S. backed coup overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvadore Allende in Chile ushering in a reign of terror and a brutal dictatorship.
- Today in Nicaragua the United States is planning, coordinating and financing an effort to overthrow the government of Nicaragua.

Upon the return to the United States the participants in the vigil called for a wide variety of actions to take place on September 15 to protest mounting U.S. intervention against Nicaragua and Central America. The date was chosen because it marks the 162nd anniversary of the independence of Central America as one country from Spain. The principal objective of the day was to demonstrate nationwide opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America with a particular focus on stopping U.S. aggression against Nicaragua. We certainly urge you to demonstrate, at any time, at this crucial juncture for Central American independence.

Plans are also being formulated for a national demonstration in Washington, DC on November 12. The demonstration has been called by a coalition of peace, religious, labor and other groups, including the War Resisters League.

In whatever way is most appropriate in your community, please demonstrate the strength and breadth of public opposition to the U.S. policy of death and suffering in Nicaragua and Central America.

Lynne Coffin is a lawyer and a member of the WRL Executive Committee.
Dannia Southerland is a staffmember in the WRL/Southeast regional office.

WRL Executive Committee member Norma Becker demonstrating outside of Jeane Kirkpatrick's office at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. The July 18th demonstration was called as an emergency response to Reagan's increased intervention in Central America. Norma and 16 others were arrested later that afternoon when they sat in front of the U.S. mission doors after being denied a meeting with Kirkpatrick.
Photo by Esther Cassidy.

WRL Conference

Mandy Carter from WRL/Southeast office.
Photo by Ed Hedemann.

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newspaper articles each day of the Conference, as well as television and radio coverage (not live, though), one of the nicest surprises was a feature article and photograph in the July 18th issue of the *New York Times* (copies are available from the WRL office if you send a stamped/self-addressed envelope). The article ended with a quote from WRL staff member and former chairman Igal Roodenko, much to his chagrin, "If it were easy, any schmo could be a pacifist." Igal, sensitive to minorities, regrets offending schmos because he had actually said "schmuck."

Ed Hedemann is a member of the WRL national staff.

Charlie King at the final plenary of the Conference.
Photo by Ed Hedemann.

Fast for Life

On August 6, 1983, eleven people from six countries began an open-ended water fast which they do not plan to break until they see a significant and immediate change in the momentum of the arms race. By setting a limit to their own lives, the fasters are demonstrating the short time before the life of the planet may end. These eleven people are fasting to point out the urgency of this situation. As time is now short for them, it is short for all of us unless there is a decisive change soon.

The four fasters in the United States are living together at the Catholic Worker house in Oakland, CA. There are three fasters in Bonn, West Germany, and four others in Paris, France. Many people from around the world have participated in support fasts for varying amounts of time.

To send your support and encouragement, please write the Fast for Life, 942 Market St., #710, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Part of Green Party delegation at the United Nations: Otto Schily, Petra Kelly, ex-NATO general Gert Bastian, and Walter Schwenninger. Photo by Esther Cassidy.

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actions but also active within institutions. Doing both strategies at once will make sure that those of us who have not been heard before—the plants, the animals, the children, the women, the handicapped, the oppressed, sexually discriminated—that they are being heard finally in Parliament.

WRL: What differences exist within the Green Party?

KELLY: Well, there are some differences regarding the so-called social democratic wing. Many intellectuals in the Green Party from northern Germany come entirely from a social democratic tradition or from ex-Communist groups that have turned ecological and have become members of the nonviolent party—the Greens. This wing is more apt to talk about coalitions, and looks towards the SPD and trade union-oriented methods and goals. And there is also a more moderate or conservative wing made up of farmers and people from small regions and villages—very ethical, very Christian thinking, who don't share feminist views but still work within the Green Party. There's also the wing around Rudi Bahro, that in many ways is a bloc-free wing. But on the other hand, Rudi Bahro tends to lean towards a pre-industrial society which he doesn't describe too precisely. His idea of going back to conservative values should not be mixed up with all the conservative values. We mean to conserve that which is good and positive in society, like solidarity, love, helping one another. So they are conservatives in the sense of values, not in the sense of structures. We would not like to conserve any structures. We would like to have a nonviolent structural change of society.

WRL: Where does the Green Party fit within the whole of the German peace movement?

KELLY: The Green Party, with its 25,000 members, is one part of the very large peace movement in Germany that encompasses perhaps 10 million people. The Green Party is certainly that part of the peace movement that is the most actively involved in Green actions, nonviolent actions. It's also that part of the peace movement which is very bloc-free. This means we do not trust the White House or the Kremlin. We happen to trust all the less Mr. Reagan and his first strike weapons on European soil.... We do not believe in deterrence, we do not believe in any military blocs. We want no armies and we want no police force one day. We want social defense instead of military defense and that means that we always point out, within peace movement discussions, that if you talk about Turkey, you must talk about Poland; if you talk about Afghanistan, you must talk about Nicaragua; if you talk about Hungary you must talk about northern Ireland. We try to see the sins committed in both backyards.

WRL: How is the Green Party financed?

KELLY: The Green Party is financed by membership dues, which are rather small and are not paid very regularly. We try to give more, the more people earn. We are also able to get money through the voting system. You can question it as quite a strange system. In Germany every party (that gets above a certain percentage) receives 3.5 marks for each vote. The large parties are trying to increase it to 5 marks, which would be nearly $2 for every vote. So in the recent national elections, in which we polled 2 million votes, we got 7 million marks (about $2.5 million). The large parties get 80 or 90 million marks. The Green Party spends its money on hearings, congresses, and actions, rather than on traditional campaigning.

Interview with Petra Kelly concluded in Nov.-Dec. 1983 *WRL News*.

Petra Kelly on "Meet the Press," July 10, 1983. Photo by Ed Hedemann.

Petra Kelly and the Green Party—an Interview

Petra Karin Kelly is one of the most charismatic and prominent figures in the European peace movement. She is a member and founder of the West German Green Party (Die Grünen). While well known in Europe for three years, the Green Party was catapulted into international prominence last March when they received 5.6% of the vote (or 2 million votes) in the national West German elections. As a result they have 28 representatives in the Bundestag (parliament). Kelly, at 35 years old, became one of the three "speakers" from the Green Party to the Bundestag. Petra Kelly has achieved her pominence through her outspokenness, her ability to speak several languages fluently (including an excellent idiomatic English), an unbending adherence to basic principles, and because of her contacts with many groups in several countries.

Though German-born, she spent the 1960's in the United States and holds a degree in International Relations from American University in Washington, DC. Since the death of her 10-year-old half-sister, Grace Patricia Kelly, of eye cancer in 1970, Petra has been deeply involved in the anti-nuclear, peace, and women's movements. She founded the Grace P. Kelly Association for Support of Cancer Research in Children. She worked at the EEC Economic and Social Committee in Brussels as an administrator of the "European Health and Social Policy Questions" (1972-1983). Kelly has traveled and lectured widely from the mid-1970's to present on feminist, peace, anti-nuclear, health and ecological issues. She left the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) early in 1979 because their positions on military, women, energy, and ecology issues seemed contradictory to her views.

The 1979 announcement of the deployment in Europe of the Pershing II and Cruise missiles had a catalytic effect on the German peace movement. Many left the SPD to join with others (women's groups, third world groups, and war resisters) to form the Green Association. This association, which polled over 3% of the vote (or 1 million people) in the European parliamentary elections in 1979 became the Green Party in 1980. The membership rose from 700 in 1979 to 25,000 today.

The politics and principles of the Green Party can briefly be described as

- against the concept of nuclear deterrence
- for development of non-military means of defense
- opposition to the exploitation of minorities and women
- "parity" of women in the Party and in German politics (e.g., at least 50% of delegates should be women)
- emphasis on an ecological approach to industry, society, and economics
- stress on intermediate technologies and renewable sources of energy
- and a strict adherence to the principles of nonviolence.

From July 4 through July 12, nine members of the Green Party visited New York and Washington, DC. They included all three speakers of the Greens in the Bundestag (Petra Kelly, Otto Schily, and Marieluise Beck-Oberdorf), three other Green members of the Bundestag (Gert Bastian, Walter Schwenninger, and Roland Vogt), as well as Manon Maren-Griesebach of the Green Party Executive Committee.

Informal meetings were set up in New York and Washington, but the main events were an all-day encounter between the Greens and members of the U.S. State Department in Washington (July 6), a small demonstration and press conference in front of the White House (July 7), and a round table meeting with representatives of American peace, women's and third world groups (July 9). The Greens visited a number of movement groups, Congressional offices, and Washington "think tanks" as well. Petra Kelly also appeared on "Meet the Press" (July 10). Ed Hedemann of WRL and Ed Glennon of Sane were responsible for many of the arrangements during the Green mini-invasion.

Because of the similarity in politics between many WRL members and many Greens (particularly, that part of the Green Party represented by Petra Kelly), and because of the enormous impact the Greens and the German peace movement are having on European politics, we are presenting the following interview with Petra Kelly. The interview is in two parts—the first in this issue and the second in the next issue of WRL News. The questions were posed to Petra Kelly on July 12 by Ed Hedemann, and Petra mailed us responses by tape a few weeks later. Editing was done to minimize redundancies and clarify expressions. Responses to parts of some questions were extracted for use in the background information above.

WRL: How would you describe yourself politically?

KELLY: I would say that I am an ecological feminist who has for many years believed in a form of emancipatory socialism... I founded the Greens with a group of my closest friends in Germany as a way out of the deadlocked, capitalistic and state socialistic system. I'm a feminist because I believe that feministic and ecological principles are one. They are spiritual principles against centralization, against hierarchy, and also I believe myself to be not a politician but a person who is active on the streets doing nonviolent

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